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Promoting Women's Wellness

September 1997 Issue #8
Newsletter for the McMaster Research Centre for the Promotion of Women's Health (MRCPOWH)

I UPDATE ....

Summer was a busy time for MRCPOWH's Principal Investigators and collaborators, particularly in the area of knowledge dissemination. Two very successful conferences co-organized by MRCPOWH attracted a national and local participation. The first one titled **"Women and Health Promotion"** was held at McMaster University on June 3-5 and was part of the McMaster Summer Institute on Gerontology. The second conference titled **"Gender and Health Promotion: From Research to Policy"** was held in Halifax on July 4 and 5.

MRCPOWH's Principal Investigators continue to take part in the stimulating meetings and initiatives of the regional Toronto-based PAR research group.

We are also very busy preparing an edited book on **Women's Voices in Health Promotion**. The book brings together the theoretical reflection, the research findings and the directions for future research of the four Principal Investigators, of affiliates and MRCPOWH's grant recipients. We extend a warm welcome to Lori Chambers as the Managing Editor of our book and congratulate her on the publication of her own book ***"Married Women and Property Law in Victorian Ontario"*** which is being released this month by the University of Toronto Press in association with the Osgoode Society.

We are most pleased to announce that on behalf of MRCPOWH, Mary O'Connor has collaborated with the Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Centre and the University of Saskatchewan to produce a successful proposal to the **Canadian International Development Agency** for 3.3 million dollars over 5 years to enhance training for health workers in Mozambique. Mozambique's health care system suffered from a long civil war that lasted till 1992. The objective of the program will be to make health services more relevant to local community needs. MRCPOWH will be working on gender issues in primary health care and in preparing new curriculum for health worker training. We will be working with a non-governmental organization in Mozambique called the Women's Forum, with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique, and with a group at the University of Western Cape in South Africa.

In the context of all those activities, a letter from Alain Canuel, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council, and Lucie Charron, Health Canada, proposing an extension of one year (until March of 1999) for operating all Centres for health promotion was welcome news.

Finally, it is with sadness for us but happiness for her that we share the news of the appointment of MRCPOWH's secretary and friend Ann Greene as Graduate Programme Secretary for the Department of Engineering Physics.

With extraordinary competence and kindness, Ann has worked with us since 1994. Ann, on behalf of all of us who had the privilege of working with you, we thank you and wish you all the best in your new position.

II MRCPOWH WORKSHOP SERIES

All workshops were well attended and provided a forum for a constructive dialogue between academic and community researchers, advocates, practitioners, activists and students. All projects presented at the Workshops were funded by MRCPOWH. We thank **Emily Sinclair**, a 3rd year student in Anthropology and Women's Studies, for her competent help in ensuring effective publicity and public relations.

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Workshop #22

On March 19, 1997, **Theresa Garvin**, Ph.D. Student, Department of Geography, presented a workshop on ***"They were Blond and Tan: Women's Perceptions of Tanning, Health & Well-Being"***, a research project funded by MRCPOWH. Using key informant interviews with women in the Hamilton area, this project had two main goals: 1. to explore the use of storytelling as method in women's health research, and 2. to understand the motivations to tan for women in the Hamilton area.

There is a growing literature supporting the concept of gendered differences in communication styles. It was hoped that using a picture-elicited, narrative, storytelling format for the key informant interviews would prove particularly useful in helping elicit women's views towards tanning, health, social status and well-being. The project found that this particular method was problematic and that many women had difficulty developing stories about "others" or women that they did not know. There are several potential explanations for this difficulty including issues of cognitive dissonance, the use of fictional instead of personal narrative, lack of cultural proclivity for storytelling, and lack of interviewer-interviewee trust in the interview relationship. As a result of this project, it is suggested that the picture-elicited fictional narrative format might not be the most appropriate form for eliciting women's views. Instead personal narratives should be encouraged, along with a concerted effort to develop important links of trust in the interviewer-interviewee relationship.

Despite the methodological issues raised in this project, the substantive findings remain quite interesting. Participants in the research were selected using a purposive sampling method and divided into two groups: tanners and avoiders. Tanners included women actively engaged in sun exposure and practicing none of the sun safety recommendations of Health Canada. By contrast Avoiders were identified as women practicing one or more of Health Canada's recommendations and not purposely seeking sun exposure.

All women were asked to develop stories, or life contexts, for two photos: one of a woman with a deep tan and one of a woman who was very white and untanned. Both Tanners and Avoiders characterized the woman in the tanned photo as being young, socially active, leading a carefree and reckless lifestyle, and working at a short-term or highly unstable job. By comparison, both Tanners and Avoiders characterized the untanned woman as being older, more responsible, reliable and trustworthy, and having a stable job and family life.

In addition to the interview data, a short survey was conducted with women following the interview to ascertain their knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about suntanning. These survey results show that while women consciously know the appropriate behaviours to protect their skin and know the dangers of sun exposure, they continue to prefer tanned skin and consider themselves more attractive and "healthy" when tanned.

Workshop #23

On April 16th, Karen Bridgman-Acker , community research and MSW student, accompanied by six women who are members of the Mothers' Family Advocacy Project, presented the research findings from this participatory research initiative ***"Women's Experiences in the Family Law System."***

While Karen discussed the historical and contextual background related to family law issues, and spoke about the research objectives, methodology and apparent themes, the six mothers gave voice to their experiences, concerns and suggestions for change. All of these women had participated in a focus group as part of the data gathering phase of the project and three of them acted as advisory group members throughout the entire process. The workshop audience was interested, although distressed, to hear about the negative impacts of the family law system on many mothers and children in our community. The women spoke of the financial, emotional and physical effects the system had on them and their children. They have created a model for a program of service that would better address the needs of women and children as they navigate this process, and thus are continuing to explore means of financing and implementing such a service in this community.

Family Law System, outlines three key themes apparent in the experiences of the more than 50 women who participated in 9 focus groups: a sense of exclusion and marginality, feelings of disempowerment and devaluation, and the negative impacts on the well-being of women and children.

The benefits of this research are considerable. The women who participated in this study have contributed to an increased awareness and understanding of the scope and impact of women's experiences. They have made recommendations and suggestions about a program or service which needs to be in place for women to feel included, respected and empowered during the family law process.

As one participant stated: "For the past four years I have been powerless, helpless. I have blamed myself, put up with verbal, financial and emotional abuse from my ex, my lawyer, and other so-called professionals. For the first time, I feel I've been listed to, believed and supported and I am not alone. I want to get on with my life and I want to help other mothers and children get on with theirs."

ELA BHATT'S Visit

On May 29th, a very receptive and diverse crowd attended the discussion of **Ela Bhatt**, ***When Women Organize for Change: What can we learn from the experience of SEWA?***

A lawyer by training, Ela Bhatt is the founder and Past General Secretary of the Self-Employed Women's Association known as SEWA which started in India in 1972. The discussion was co-sponsored by MRCPOWH, the Programme of Women's Studies, McMaster International, the Programme of Labour Studies and the Human Resources & Labour Relations Area.

Most importantly, Ela Bhatt founded SEWA's Cooperative Bank in 1974. This is a women's bank which gives small loans to start self-employment and in which women deposit their earnings. Ela Bhatt's and SEWA's work have received international recognition and SEWA's Bank is a fore-runner of an emerging global movement of self-help groups. She is the recipient of many awards including the CARE Humanitarian Award, Washington, D.C., 1994.

SEWA draws a great deal of inspiration from Gandhi's belief in the importance of women in the world of work and social change brought through non-violent action. For SEWA, the process of change is as important as the results.

What did we learn from her presentation? That all determinants of health are interconnected and that meaningful and sustainable action in health promotion on one determinant (ex: poverty) affects the other determinants. We also learned that sustainable action in women and health promotion is a long term undertaking. Ela Bhatt reinforced our belief that health promotion with/for women is an expression of a world view, that perseverance and dedication to this learning process and to action are the key to the international success of SEWA which became a model for others to emulate.

Ela Bhatt talks with P. Pringle and I.U. Zeytinoglu

Writings on Ela Bhatt's work include: *Where Women are Leaders* by Kalima Rose (New Delhi, 1992) and "Towards Equality", a chapter in *May You Be the Mother of Hundred Sons*, by Elisabeth Bumiller (New York, Toronto, 1990).

IV CONFERENCES Co-Sponsored by MRCPOWH

Margaret Denton and **Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed** co-organized PART B of the Summer Institute of Gerontology, ***Women and Health Promotion***, June 3-5 at McMaster University. The conference drew a strong participation of scholars, health promotion practitioners and policy makers who shared their knowledge, initiatives and vision during an intense and productive three-day exchange. The following excerpts from testimonies of several participants account for the content and importance of the conference:

Lori Chambers: The McMaster Research Centre for the Promotion of Women's Health, in conjunction with the McMaster Summer Institute on Gerontology, hosted the Summer Institute on Women and Health Promotion. Speakers from across the country participated and shared new research findings and methodological approaches with the participants. The programme highlighted the diversity and richness of research in this field and indicated the importance of women's health promotion for policy and practice. Discussions and presentations were grouped thematically: women's work and health promotion; diversity and health promotion; and aging and health promotion.

Responses to the Institute were overwhelmingly positive. Participants found the exchange of ideas both intellectually stimulating and practical. The opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the country was also exciting and served to illustrate both the diversity and the strength of the growing communities of Canadian women concerned with and working for women's health promotion.

Nazilla Khanlou: During the first day of the conference, entitled **"Health Promotion: Practice and Policy, Women's Work and Health Promotion"**, the role of women's social context in promoting women's health was emphasized. Particular attention was paid to the influence of work on women's health. The second day of the conference focused on **"Diversity and Health Promotion"**. Presenters from community groups, health programs and universities covered areas related to ethnocultural diversity, disability and lesbian issues. The day ended with an eloquent play by **Half the Sky** Feminist Theatre Company, a Hamilton group titled "Hanna Free". The play focused on the plight for recognition of their needs of two elderly lesbian women in a nursing home. **"Aging and Health Promotion"** was the focus for the last day of the conference. Presenters considered health promotion research, practice and advocacy in the context of older women's lives.

The organizers of the conference are commended for inviting presenters who brought to the conference diverse views and experiences in promoting women's health. Sensitivity to diversity in women's lives has important research policy and practice implications.

June 3rd: In her keynote address, Heather Maclean outlined the specific issues related to health promotion with aging women. Methodologies, such as the feminist methodology (Niva Piran) and public policies (Jane Underwood) were discussed, as well as the negative impact of the workfare policy on woman's existence (Pat Daenzer). The afternoon session was devoted to women's work: the segregation of women in the labour force (Pat Armstrong), the right to healthy workplaces (Peri Ballantyne), how to create healthy workplaces (Karen Messing) and the social and economic barriers faced by immigrant women (Roxanna Ng).

Marcela Leighton Krauter: **June 4 - Health Promotion and Diversity**. Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, started the day with an energizing speech that set the tone for the rest of the session. She brought to the discussion the phenomenon of cultural alienation, a result of the systemic lack of acknowledgement of cultural differences. Traditions and experiences define the life-style and attitudes that shape a person and cannot be ignored when dealing with health issues. Acknowledgment of cultural differences sometimes has awful consequences for women, as illustrated by Vuyiswa Keyi-Ayema who discussed the case of genital mutilation and exposed what she called "The Tyranny of Tolerance." Nancy Fowler looked at reforming and designing health systems that break out of the medical model and Maxine Carter talked about the practice of Health Promotion in an ethnocultural context.

Health Promotion and Disability
"Look at the person in the wheelchair first," said Kate Davey, a psychologist., who with Vera Chouinard talked about the obstacles they must face to get to work, as they both have impaired mobility. If no rights have been denied to them in principle, in practice they can only exercise them at a great cost. Flavia Tanquilli-Nardini, as a committed advocate of the cause of disabled people, discussed advocacy as a communal responsibility.

Lesbian issues and anti-heterosexism training was very aptly discussed by Chris Sinding.

June 5 - Aging and Health Promotion
Dorothy Craig focused on the chronic ailments that affect the aging female population and the importance of an effective health promotion program in order to

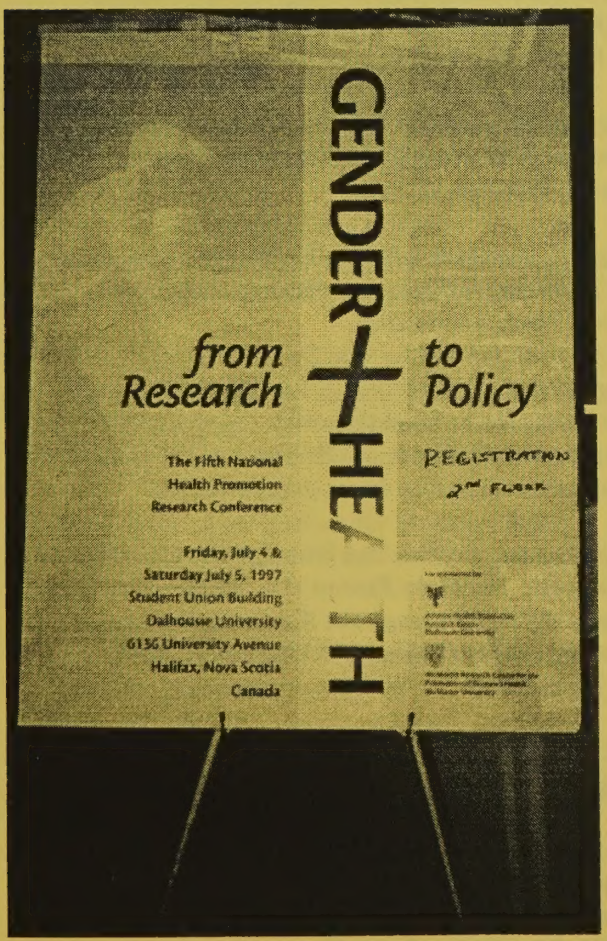
increase the quality of life. Carol McWilliam presented a practical and effective model of health promotion.

Mary Tremblay talked about women, aging and disability. She noted that women with disabilities have a high life expectancy, which translates in a need for change in medical care rehabilitation programs and social policies.

Norma Drummond brought to our attention the issue of caregivers. She invited us to reflect on "some facts and figures" that should create a concern among women. For instance: "About 10-15% of care for the elderly is provided by health and social service agencies." Who provides the other 85-90% of the care? Female family members. It is not difficult to imagine the consequences to women's work, careers, other personal goals and family life.

The day ended with Basu Majumdar's workshop on cultural sensitivity and health promotion.

Our sincere thanks to **Gail Elliot and Keri Beamish** from the Programme of Gerontology for their most effective and congenial collaboration.



Gender and Health: From Research to Policy

Co-organized by the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre and MRCPOWH the **Fifth National Health Promotion Research Conference,** was held on July 4 and 5, 1997 at Dalhousie University, Halifax. The organizers for MRCPOWH were **Mary O'Connor, Pam Pringle** and **Isik Urla Zeytinoglu**.

The conference drew many participants and was extremely successful. During two very intensely productive days, plenary speakers, authors of synthesis papers, participants in panel discussions, presenters of paper and poster sessions shared, and refined their knowledge destined to inform policy making. As during the Women and Health Promotion Conference at McMaster, the atmosphere was very conducive to a genuine dialogue and to a meaningful circulation of ideas.

What were the issues discussed? What new directions were suggested?

The conference clearly established that Health Promotion methodologies are situated well beyond binarity: both quantitative and qualitative approaches were validated, health promotion and population health were valued. The conference turned its focus to the refinement of analytical tools. Determinants of health were also seen in their multiplicity and complexity. New questions arose: is the present demedicalisation of health health- promoting? Is biology socially constructed? What are the legal implications of health promotion in indigenous communities? What are the benefits of "culture retention research", whereby cultural practices are integrated into health promotion with immigrant women?

Health promotion like other approaches to health is connected with the politics of health and constitutes an ideologico-political choice. Serious concern was expressed about the commodification of women's health encouraged by drug companies and the "beauty industry", and about the genetisation of health research and intervention.

There was also a renewed call by a keynote speaker and others for environmental research & policy, environmental factors being a woman's issue as well as a global one.

The conference opened up the field of health promotion for work on women's health and on gender issues for both men and women. It impressed upon us the necessity of taking gender as a category of analysis and as a term for any modeling that may be done in health research and planning. Gender is a multidimensional construct and should be conceptualized and assessed as such.

The conference was unique in a number of ways: it brought together researchers, practitioners and policy makers to discuss gender issues and women's health; it was an interdisciplinary conference (including presentations of research and practice that were in themselves interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary) working on gender and the determinants of health; on women's health promotion; and links between research and policy. Although it was a national conference there were participants and presenters from the United States and Australia. Six synthesis papers were commixxioned for the conference withe the support of NHRDP and the Women's Health Bureau. The significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the synthesis papers were on the topics of gender related to other determinants of health; healthy child development; native women; social change and policy. Copies of these papers in both official languages will be available from the Canadian Women's Health Network Website.

In the end, a large panel discussion included health promoters and policy makers. We have learned about the intricacies of policy making process and the politics of it, a useful knowledge that will be conducive to a much wished closer partnership between health promoters and policymakers.The proposal by Heather Maclean and Susan Goodman to set up a dissemination unit of research for a better collaboration between research institutions and the public domain to which researchers should feel accountable appealed to all participants. Many participants remained for the Canadian Public Health Association Conference "Investigation Health: Shaping Public Policy" which followed.

Our sincere thanks to **Myriam Stewart** and **Sandra Crowell** for coordinating and hosting the conference in Halifax so successfully. We also thank **Pam Pringle** from McMaster University for her competent and conscientious organization of the conference.

The Proceedings of the conference will be available from the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre later in the Fall, 1997 (c/o S. Crowell, Dalhousie University, E-mail: ahprc@dal.ca).

Health Promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion

Participation at Conferences

Names of presenters are underlined.

CIRA/ACRI ANNUAL CONFERENCE, June 1997, St. John's, Newfoundland

Isik Urla Zeytinoglu, Muriel Westmorland, Pam Pringle, Margaret Denton, and Vera Chouinard presented a paper on ***The Affect of Paid & Unpaid Work on the Health of Persons with Disabilities***

14TH ANNUAL MCMASTER SUMMER INSTITUTE ON GERONTOLOGY, Theme B, Women and Health Promotion, June 1997, McMaster University

Margaret Denton, Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed, Mary O'Connor and Isik Urla Zeytinoglu chaired sessions at the conference.

8TH BAKHTIN CONFERENCE, June 1997, Calgary.

Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed presented a paper ***Bakhtin et Charles Taylor. Dialogisme inter-culturel.***

THE FIFTH NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH CONFERENCE, Gender and Health: From Research to Policy, July 4 & 5, 1997, Halifax.

Margaret Denton and Isik Urla Zeytinoglu. ***Gender Differences in Structural and Behavioural Determinants of Health.*** Paper presentation.

Margaret A. Denton & Isik Urla Zeytinoglu. ***Health and Safety in Women's Work: The Case of Homecare Workers.*** Poster presentation.

Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed. **La promotion de la santé avec les femmes immigrantes: enjeux, defis, accomplissements**. She also delivered the final remarks at the conclusion of the first day of the conference.

Marilyn Swinton, Colleen Van Berkel, Mary O'Connor. ***Peer Support: The Main Reason Why Women Attend the Programs Offered Through the Hamilton-Wentworth Community Action Program for Children (CAPC).*** Poster Presentation.

Mary O'Connor. ***Health Promotion and Women's Health: The Links***. Panel Presentation.

Isik Urla Zeytinoglu, Muriel Westmorland, Pam Pringle, Margaret Denton, and Vera Chouinard. ***The Impact of Paid and Unpaid Work on the Health of Women and Men with Disabilities***. Poster Presentation.

Upcoming Conferences

SELF-HELP RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
October 24th, 1997, University of Toronto
Contact: Randi Fine, Executive Director of the Self-Help Resource Centre at (416) 487-4355 or Dr. Irv Rootman, Director, Centre for Health Promotion at (416) 978-1100 or E-mail irv.rootman@utoronto.ca.

WOMEN, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
4th Canadian Conference on International Health
November 9-12, 1997, Ottawa ON
Contact: CCIH Coordinator, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1105, OTTAWA ON K1N 7B7. Tel: (613) 241-5785 ext. 313; E-mail csih@fox.nstn.ca.

7th NATIONAL HOME CARE CONFERENCE
November 30 to December 2, 1997, Montreal QC
Contact: Conference Secretariat, 1410 Stanley Street, Suite 609, Montreal QC H3A 1P8.Tel: (514)287-1070; E-mail: jpdl@jpdl.com.

COMMUNICATION THAT CLICKS: STRATEGIES AND LINKAGES FOR HEALTH
48th Annual Ontario Public Health Association Conf.
November 24-16, 1997, Kingston ON
Contact: KFL&A Health Unit. Tel: (613) 549-1232; E-mail:health@khunit.com; http://www.khunit.com/opha.

COMMUNITY-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH: PRINCIPLES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES
CCPH Annual Conference
April 25-28, 1998, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: Alisa Holmes, CCPH Program Assistant, Fax (415) 476-4113; E-mail: ccph@itsa.ucsf.edu.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST, BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE
The Institute for Women's Policy Research,
5th Women's Policy Research Conference
June 12-13, 1998, Washington, DC
Contact: Jill Braunstein, Institute for Women's Policy Research. Tel: (202) 785-5100 or E-mail: iwpr@www.iwpr.org.

HEALTH IN RURAL SETTINGS; FROM THE GROUND UP. ***September 9-12, 1998***
Lethbridge, Alberta.
Contact: Regional Centre for Health Promotion & Community Studies (403) 382-7152 or School of Nursing (403) 329-2699; Fax: (403) 329-2668; E-mail: rhc@uleth.ca.

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH, COMMUNITIES AND THE ACADEMY

Thursday, October 23 to Saturday, October 25, 1997

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario

Organized by: The Department of Adult Education, Community Development & Counseling Psychology, OISE/University of Toronto

In collaboration with: Syracuse Social Movement Initiative (SSME), Syracuse University; Cornell University; McMaster Research Centre for the Promotion of Women's Health; and the Department of Behavioral Science, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Registration Cost: $55.00 Can. (Includes all refreshment breaks, one lunch and Chinatown dinner)

Themes of the conference include: Par in the Context of academia; values and ethics in PAR, Par and granting agencies.

For information call Budd Hall, Niva Piran or Trevor Hoo, OISE 416-923-6641. At McMaster contact Maroussia Ahmed 905-525-9140 ext. 23758.

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http://hppb.hwc.ca

HEALTH PROMOTION IN CANADA Magazine
360 Newkirk Road
Richmond Hill ON L4C 3G6.
Tel: 905-884-2612
Fax: 905-884-1478

IV OUR BOOK . . . . . .

Women's Voices in Health Promotion

The objective of this collection of articles is to contribute to feminist research on women and health promotion. This is a new field of inquiry and this book will describe the current state of the discipline, provide a forum for the dissemination of recent research, encourage readers to expand upon this research, and articulate new questions and goals for the promotion of women's health.

Women's health promotion has been the subject of considerable inquiry in the last decade by researchers. As yet, however, the work on women's health promotion has not been integrated into a single, accessible volume; this text will fill this void.

The introductory chapter of the book written by Margaret Denton, Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed, Mary O'Connor and Isik Urla Zeytinoglu will offer the reader a theoretical framework for research on women and health promotion. This framework is both feminist and participatory and as such challenges and supplements the medical model of health; it is preventative, enabling, and accounts for diversity. The Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion, 1986, defined the fundamental prerequisites of healthy living - peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable eco-system, sustainable resources, social justice and equity - and recognized that access to these prerequisites cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. The Ottawa Charter also outlined strategies for improving health by: building healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills and reorienting health services. The N. Hamilton and T. Bhatti model of Population Health Promotion, 1996, integrated the findings and objectives of the Ottawa Charter with strategies for population health. The feminist participatory model exemplified in this book is based upon four central principles that emerge from this and other research: women's own knowledge of their health needs is essential to the design of heath promotion research; social investigation and action should be part of the same process; research should provide immediate benefits to the community; and research should aim to eliminate the structural causes of the identified problem. This framework will be fully articulated in he introductory chapters of the book and epistemological and methodological questions regarding the range of participatory action research methods will be explored.

The remainder of the text will be devoted to the dissemination of recent research in women's health promotion. The findings of these research projects have important implications for health and social policy. Also, the projects themselves provide examples of participatory action research in the health promotion field upon which others can build. These projects will be presented thematically: women workers in health and social service agencies; women with disabilities and health promotion; cultural and racial diversity and the promotion of women's health; the health needs of women across the life span and of lesbian women.

This book will, therefore, make a significant contribution to both women's studies and health studies. It will appeal to a divergent academic audience in the fields of women's studies, health studies and medicine, sociology, anthropology, social work, labour studies and gerontology. The collection could also potentially be used as a textbook in courses on women's health.

In order to improve the health of the people, action must be taken on the full range of health determinants."

N. Hamilton & T. Bhatti

V RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH AFFILIATES

May Cohen, Director, Women's Health Office, was the Workshop Leader at the Society of Obstetrics & Gyencology of Canada Executive Meeting in Mexico City, February 27-March 1, 1997. Topic: **The Future Role of OBGYN in Canada.** May also was the guest speaker at the Annual Spring Dinner of the Manitoba Branch of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, in Winnipeg, and presented **Women Physicians as Leaders in the 21st Century.**

Patricia Daenzer, Director, Women's Studies Programme, presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of African American Studies in Houston Texas, Feb. 11-15, 1997 with the title **The Problem of Language in Research and Analysis: African Canadian Women and the Process of Participatory Action Research**. In June Pat presented at the Gerontology/MRCPOWH Summer Institute a paper on **Provincial Income Maintenance Policy and Women: Insights and Analysis**.

Basanti Majumdar, School of Nursing, has received a 1997 ***SHASTRI Indo-Canadian Fellowship*** for her research proposal entitled **Women and Violence**. The project will take place in India beginning in 1997 and ending in 1998. Stage 1 of the study will explore the knowledge and attitudes of medical, nursing and physiotherapy students at several universities as relate to women and violence. Based on the findings, Stage 2 will see the introduction of the necessary content on this issue added to the curriculum of the respective university(ies). The final Stage of the study will focus on evaluation.

Basanti Majumdar is McMaster University's first recipient of the ***Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) "Award for Canadians"***, Professional Category for the proposal entitled **Impact of Social, Spiritual and Family Support on Women with HIV**. The project activities will take place in Calcutta, India together with the renowned Bhoruka AIDS Programme, a unit of the Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust; the data analysis and preparation of final reports will take place in Hamilton.

Muriel Westmorland, Associate Dean Health Sciences, presented the following: i) Keynote Address on **Empowerment** at the North American Inter-Urban Stroke Conference in Hamilton May 1997; ii) **Professional/Ethical Issues in the Review of Surveillance Tapes** at the Institute for Work and Health Conference in October 1996, Toronto; iii) **Measurement of (Work) Effort** presented at the OSOT conference in Hamilton in June 1997 with Susan Strong and Rhoda Reardon; iv) **Positive Work Environments for Persons with Disabilities - Charting the Course** - paper based on the work by Isik U. Zeytinoglu, Vera Chouinard, Margaret Denton, Pam Pringle and Muriel Westmorland at National CAOT conference Halifax, NS, June 1997.

Muriel Westmorland, is Principal Investigator on a SSHRC Research Grant of $60,000 with a further grant of $11,000 from The Chedoke Hospitals Assessment Centre fund over 2 years to investigate **Workplace Reintegration for Persons with Disabilities**. This is a qualitative research project with focus groups of managers, human resource personnel, unions, front line supervisors, persons with disabilities and co-workers. The major question is "what do you define as workplace success for persons with disabilities". A final report and project dissemination workshops are planned in the spring and summer of 1998.

Evidence Based Rehabilitation Practice - Muriel is part of a team headed by Dr. Mary Law of the School of Rehabilitation Science, reviewing the literature with respect to the evidence of validity and reliability in our professional practise. They have received a grant of $10,000 from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy Research Foundation.

VI WE CONNECT .....

Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed was invited to become a member of the Planning and Evaluation Committee of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. She is also a member of the McMaster Centre for International Health based Women and Peace Building for Sustainable Development Working Group on post-war healing of young women in Mozambique, coordinated by Dr. Saida Ahmed, a pediatrician from Somalia.

Mary O'Connor has been attending the MS Working Group for Hamilton-Wentworth, a planning group for services for people with Multiple Sclerosis. She also continues to work with the Evaluation Committee of the Hamilton-Wentworth Community Action Program for Children.

VII WORKSHOPS PLANNED

MRCPOWH's Workshop Series continues this Fall. Workshops are held in Kenneth Taylor Hall, Room 705 and are open to members of the university and community.

Monday, October 27, 1997, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Nazilla Khanlou, PhD Student, Faculty of Nursing & Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed, MRCPOWH, **"Gender and Culture in Adolescent Mental Health Promotion".**

Monday, November 17, 1997, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Marilyn Swinton & Mary O'Connor, Community Action for Children (CAPC) Evaluation Committee, **"Lessons Learned from CAPC: Community Programming with Women of Low Income".**

WOMEN'S HEALTH OFFICE
McMaster Faculty of Health Sciences
is proud to present the

First Annual May Cohen Lecturship in Women's Health

GENDER AS A DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

HON. MONIQUE BEGIN

Monday, October 27, 1997
7:00 pm
Health Sciences Centre 1A6

Women's Health Office
Lunchtime Seminars

Monday, October 27, 1997, 12:00-1:00 in HSC 1A3, Dr. Stephanie Brister and Dr. Heather Arthur, **Women and Heart Disease.**

Friday, December 5, 1997, 12:00-1:00 in HSC 1A6, Dr. Gina Ogilvie, MD, CCFP, **HIV Testing of Pregnant Women.**

VIII PUBLICATIONS

Margaret Denton, Vivienne Walters, **Gender Differences in Structural and Behavioural Determinants of Health: An Analysis of the Social Production of Health**, MRCPOWH Working Paper Series #8, August 1997.

Lily Dolina, Margaret Denton, Allison Cummings & Sharon Webb, **Evaluation of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Public Health Department Intergenerational Volunteer Program in Elementary Schools,** MRCPOWH Technical Report #5, July 1997.

Margaret Denton. 1997.**The Linkages Between Informal and Formal Care of the Elderly.** Canadian Journal of Aging, Vol. 16(1):17-37.

Vivienne Walters and Margaret Denton. 1997. **The Social Production of Stress, Depression and Tiredness Among Women.** Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, 32,1:53-70.

Nazilla Khanlou & Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed, **Mental Health Promotion Among Female Adolescents Living within a Cross-Cultural Context: Participatory Action Research with South Asian-Canadian High School Students**, MRCPOWH Technical Report #4, June 1997.

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Dr. Margaret Denton,
Gerontology/Sociology
Dr. Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed, Co-Chair,
Women's Studies/French
Dr. Mary O'Connor, Co-Chair,
Women's Studies/English
Dr. Isik Urla Zeytinoglu,
MGD School of Business/Women's Studies

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

Dr. Jane Aronson, Social Work
Dr. Heather Arthur, Nursing
Dr. Vera Chouinard, Geography
Dr. Donna Ciliska, Nursing
Dr. May Cohen, Assoc Dean, Health Services
Dr. Marilyn A. Craven, Psychiatry/ERMH Health
Dr. Fionella Crombie, Family Medicine
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Ms. Ann Greene ext. 23554

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EDITOR of PROMOTING WOMEN'S WELLNESS
Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed